

(a) As per information available, the number of road accidents on National Highways during the years 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 98690 (P), 101940 (P) and 106776 (P) respectively (P = Provisional). The year-wise number of road accidents in Metropolitan Cities are given below:

Sl.No.	Metro Cities	1998	1999	2000
1.	Kolkata	10999	10677	11036
2.	Delhi	10217	9909	10245
3.	Mumbai	26980	25945	26450
4.	Chennai	5121	4593	4878

(b) The number of the accidents occurred alongwith the number of people died/injured during the year 2000 as given below:

	Road Accidents	Persons Killed	Persons Injured
National Highways	106776 (P)	28930 (P)	115673 (P)
Kolkata	11036	452	3316
Delhi	10245	1989	8771
Mumbai	26450	449	7122
Chennai	4878	692	4496

(P=Provisional)

(c) The causes of road accidents identified are Drivers fault, Passengers/ Pedestrians, Bad weather, Bad road, Mechanical fault & Others.

(d) Various remedial measures taken by Government are Engineering and managerial efforts like ensuring proper road engineering aspects, road signages, improvement of road geometrics, training, awareness campaign, enforcement, etc.

Proposal for separate department for medium industries

1347. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from any quarter for making separate department or to define medium industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what is the worldwide phenomenon and what are Government's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) The Small Scale Industries Board in its 46th meeting held on 30th May, 2001, has recommended that the medium sector must be defined to help Small Scale Industries units to graduate to medium scale units. A Study Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.P. Gupta, Member, Planning Commission on "Development of Small Enterprises" and the "Expenditure Reforms Commission" have also recommended that medium sector be defined separately.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection to SSIs

1348. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures contemplated by Government to provide protection to the small scale industries in light of free imports of goods earlier reserved for SSIs since April, 2001;

(b) whether there is any strategy for providing standardization of the products made by Small Scale Industries (SSIs); and

(c) the details of the steps taken to strengthen the SSIs during the last 2-3 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) on the economy including the small scale industries (SSIs) in the country. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties and taking safeguards measures in case of surge in imports.

(b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) issues licences to the domestic